

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 DLOS-07 COA-02 STR-08 DRC-01

/200 W

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R 111616Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 428

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NL GY MARR PBOR PLOS

SUBJECT: MIN PRESIDENT ARRON'S DISCUSSES GOS AFFAIRS

1. MY INITIAL CALL ON MIN PRESIDENT ARRON'S SEPT 7 WAS BRIEF BUT NOTE-WORTHY FOR WARMTH OF RECEPTION AND APPARENT CANDOR WITH WHICH HE TOUCHED UPON CURRENT GOS CONCERNS. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED:

2. INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE: ARRON'S REPEATEDLY ALLUDED TO THE MANY MATTERS GOS MUST RESOLVE PRIOR INDEPENDENCE. HE CONVEYED SENSE OF URGENCY AND ACTED AS MAN UNDER UNACCUSTOMED DEGREE OF PRESSURE. HE BELIEVED LATE 1975 DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE CAN BE MET, BUT OBSERVED "WE NEED ALL THE TIME WE CAN GET IN ORDER AVOID MISTAKES" AS INDEPENDENCE NEARS. ARRON'S REJECTED RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT DATE BE ADVANCED TO JULY 1, 1975, TO COMMEMORATE 1863 EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES.

3. ALCOA TALKS: MIN PRESIDENT SAID COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MUST VERY SOON HOLD MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR BAUXITE TALKS  
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WITH SURALCO WHICH HE STILL HOPES TO HOLD NEXT MONTH.

4. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: CURRENT MEETINGS WITH GON MINISTER DE GAAY FORTMAN (REPORTING SEPARATELY) ARE TO EXPLORE, INTER ALIA, POST-INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC AID AND POSSIBILITY OF HEALTHY INCREASE DURING SURINAM'S LAST YEAR AS MEMBER OF REALM. ARRONS JUDGES THAT GON WILL BE FORTH-COMING.

5. DEFENSE: ARRONS HOPES TO WORK OUT WITH GON MAJOR SUPPORT FOR STANDING ARMY OF ABOUT 850 TO SUPPLANT DUTCH GARRISON AFTER INDEPENDENCE (SEPTEL). NO NAVY OR AIR FORCE CONTEMPLATED.

6. SOLUTIONS: MIN PRESIDENT SHOOK HEAD RUEFULLY AND SAID, "I DON'T KNOW. WE'RE STILL LOOKING AROUND" WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT SOLUTIONS HE IS FINDING FOR TROUBLES BESETTING COUNTRY SUCH AS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, FLIGHT OF SKILLED PEOPLE AND CAPITAL, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAG.

7. BORDER PROBLEM: ARRONS, IN FLASH OF ANGER, THREATENED "COUNTER-MEASURES" IF RECENTLY REPORTED PATROL OF GUAYANESE ARMED VESSEL UP DISPUTED CORANTIJN RIVER IS REPEATED. "WE PROTESTED THIS," SAID ARRONS. "IT WAS NOT A FRIENDLY ACT." FOLLOWING UNFLATTERING REFERENCES TO GUAYANA PRIME MIN BURNHAM AND GUAYANESE, ARRONS LIGHTLY DEPLORED DUTCH RELUCTANCE BECOME INVOLVED IN BORDER DISPUTE OR ENDEAVOR RESOLVE IT PRIOR INDEPENDENCE. "BUT IF DUTCH WILL GIVE US BOATS OR PLANES WE CAN DEFEND OWN BORDER," HE ASSERTED. HE DISMISSED CONTESTED SURINAM-FRENCH GUIANA BORDER AREA AS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE.

8. LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE: ARRONS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME RECENT LOS CONFERENCE. SURINAM POSITION FAVORING 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE OPPOSED BY LEADERSHIP OF NETHERLANDS DELEGATION AS INCONSISTENT WITH DUTCH VIEWS. SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE REACHED, SAID ARRONS, WHEN DUTCH AGREED TO MAKE KNOWN SURINAM POSITION WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

9. TRADE: MIN PRES SAID GOS HOPES DE-EMPHASIZE SURINAM'S DEPENDENCE ON EUROPE AND UNITED STATES AS MAIN IMPORT SOURCES AND TURN INSTEAD TO BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS AS EQUALLY SATISFACTORY AND CHEAPER SUBSTITUTES, E.G. VOLKSWAGEN ASSEMBLED IN BRAZIL  
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COSTS LITTLE MORE THAN HALF VW IMPORTED FROM GERMANY, SAME FOR APPLICANCES.

10. ARRONS APOLOGIZED FOR LONG POSTPONEMENT OF OUR FIRST MEETING, BLAMING CUMBERSOME RECOGNITION PROCEDURE AND PRESSURE OF EVENTS ON HIS TIME. HE EXPRESSED WISH FOR MUCH LONGER TALK TOGETHER WHEN "I GET A FEW THINGS BEHIND ME."  
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## Message Attributes

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